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Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
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PASS AGRIC FOR HUGHES/FAS; MULHERN/APHIS;

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CA
SUBJECT: CANADA LIFTS RESTRICTIVE PBB REQUIREMENTS ON
SLAUGHTER CATTLE IMPORTS FROM MICHIGAN

1. AGRICULTURE MINISTER EUGENE WHELAN ANNOUNCED MARCH 17, 1978 GOC REQUIREMENT TO HOLD CARCASSES OF SLAUGHTER CATTLE FROM MICHIGAN PENDING TEST FOR PBB BEING LIFTED. FOLLOWING IS TEXT AGRICULTURE CANADA NEWS RELEASE: QUOTE AGRICULTURE MINISTER EUGENE WHELAN TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE REQUIREMENT TO HOLD CARCASSES OF SLAUGHTER CATTLE IMPORTED FROM MICHIGAN IS BEING LIFTED. UNQUOTE. BEGIN INNERQUOTE AS A RESULT OF OUR INVESTIGATIONS, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRICT CONTROLS IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN IN OCTOBER 1977, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY THREAT OF CONTAMINATION BY THE CHEMICAL PBB IN BEEF CATTLE END INNERQUOTE MR. WHELAN SAID. QUOTE SPECIAL TESTS FOR PBB (POLYBROMINATED BIPHENYL) WERE LAUNCHED EARLY IN 1977 IN RESPONSE TO THE CONTAMINATION OF DAIRY FEED IN MICHIGAN. AS A RESULT OF THIS RESTRICTION, IMPORTATION OF MICHIGAN SLAUGHTER CATTLE VIRTUALLY CEASED. CANADIAN TESTS, MONITORING FOR THE PRESENCE OF THIS CHEMICAL IN SLAUGHTER CATTLE CARCASSES AND MEAT, WILL
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CONTINUE. MICHIGAN AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS ARE ALSO CONTINUING TESTING FOR PBB TRACES. MR. WHELAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS HIS RECENT MEETING WITH U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BOB BERGLAND. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ARE TO BE WDRKED OUT BY OFFICIALS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE

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2. ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF LESS RESTRICTIVE PBB CONTROLS TO BE MADE BY DR. ROSS REID, SPECIAL ASSISTANT OPERATIONS, HEALTH OF ANIMALS. REID LETTER MARCH 20, 1978 TO DR. MULHERN, ADMINISTRATOR/APHIS WILL OUTLINE FOLLOWING THREE PROPOSALS: (A) SHIPMENTS OF LIVE SLAUGHTER CATTLE OF THE BEEF BREEDS ORIGINATING IN MICHIGAN WILL BE PERMITTED UNRESTRICTED ENTRY AS FAR AS PBB IS CONCERNED. (B) SHIPMENTS OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS FROM CATTLE OF THE BEEF BREEDS HARBORED IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN WILL BE PERMITTED UNRESTRICTED ENTRY PROVIDED THEY ARE CERTIFIED BY USDA TO ORIGINATE FROM BEEF BREEDS. (C) SHIPMENTS OF LIVE SLAUGHTER CATTLE OF THE DAIRY BREEDS AND MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS DERIVED THEREFROM WILL BE PERMITTED ENTRY PROVIDED THEY ARE CERTIFIED FREE FROM PBB BY USDA. REID WILL DFFER TO RECEIVE MULHERN PROPOSALS FOR USDA CERTIFICATION ON (B) AND (C) ABOVE.

3. GOC WILL CONTINUE NORMAL MONITORING TEST PROCEDURES LIVE SLAUGHTER CATTLE MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCT IMPORTS. CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR DES (DIETHYLSTILBESTROL) REMAINS IN EFFECT. ENDERS

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